

investigate at the request of the FBI, and yet two nuns in the Buddhist order have been indicted. Two nuns have been indicted. Yet everyone else in the administration is let off scot-free.

So my colleagues demand campaign finance reform today. I would urge them to ask Mr. GORE to submit his e-mail records. Let us look at Justice Freeh's memorandum of understanding to Mrs. Reno. Let us finally look at campaign finance reform as the laws apply today. But, no, let us create a smoke screen.

LEAVE STAR WARS TO THE MOVIES

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, 17 years and over \$40 billion, one would hope that such an investment would be directed towards upgrading our schools, providing job training, or making payments on our national debt.

Instead, this astronomical amount has been squandered on Star Wars. Now, they have changed the name to National Missile Defense, but it is the same thing. After 20 years of trying, it still does not work.

Reagan started it to beat the Soviets. Now they say we need it to protect us from Iraq. But Timothy McVeigh was not in Iraq.

The greatest threat to our country is having leadership that fails to recognize real threats. Instead of funding more government waste, deadly corporate welfare, and a missile build-up that jeopardizes the ABM Treaty, I suggest that we concentrate on our problems at ground zero and leave Star Wars to the movies.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on House Resolution 465 and H.R. 4051 will be taken after debate has concluded on those motions.

Record votes on remaining motions to suspend the rules will be taken later today.

ENCOURAGING GOVERNMENTS TO DISSEMINATE STATISTICS ON ABANDONED NEWBORN BABIES

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 465) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that local, State, and Federal governments should collect and disseminate statistics on the number of newborn babies abandoned in public places.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 465

Whereas April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, which provides Congress the opportunity to focus attention and raise awareness of the problem of newborn babies abandoned in public places;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services reports that, in 1998, 31,000 babies were delivered and abandoned in hospitals by mothers;

Whereas an unknown number of newborn babies are abandoned in dumpsters, trash bins, alleys, warehouses, and bathrooms;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services conducted an informal survey of major newspapers and found that, in 1998, 105 babies were found abandoned in public places in the United States, of which 33 were found dead, and that, in 1991, 65 babies were abandoned, of which 8 were found dead;

Whereas national statistics on the number of infants abandoned in public places are not kept, though States are required to submit data to the Department of Health and Human Services on the number of children who enter foster care as a result of abandonment in general;

Whereas Texas is the only State to have enacted a law designed to address this social problem, though 24 other states are considering such legislation, including Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Connecticut, Oregon, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin, Mississippi, Michigan, and New Mexico; and

Whereas there are innovative model programs in Houston, Mobile, Minneapolis, and Syracuse that protect mothers who take newborns to hospitals or some other safe haven rather than dumping them in a trash bin or leaving them on a doorstep: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That local, State, and Federal statistics should be kept on the number of babies abandoned in public places.

□ 1130

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Resolution 465, focusing our attention on the thousands of infants who are abandoned in this country every year.

In November of 1996, two college freshmen, Brian Peterson and his girlfriend, Amy Grossberg, were charged in the death of their newborn son, found wrapped in plastic at a Dumpster near a Newark, Delaware motel.

In June of 1998, the body of a 6-pound baby boy was found in a trash can at a Smyrna, Delaware car wash. The parents were never found.

Today, two Virginia teens are fighting extradition to Delaware where their baby girl was found abandoned on the floor of a portable lavatory on a housing construction site in Bear, Delaware.

This is my State of Delaware alone, the size of each of our 435 congressional districts by population.

Recently, a writer sorted through 1,000 newspaper articles on infant murders between 1990 and 1999 and found 700 cases in which the mother killed her child. Of course, these were the cases where the murder was committed, the mother was found, and the story was reported in the newspaper.

According to child welfare experts, States include infant abandonment with the abandonment of children of other ages in their records, so there are no specific figures on the number of newborns abandoned each year. Therefore, it is fitting that this resolution calls on localities, States, and the Federal Government to keep statistics on the number of infants abandoned in public places each year. With this data, we will have the ability to better assess the scope of this problem and then take steps to address it.

In fact, after 13 infants were found abandoned in the Houston area, Texas became the first State to pass a law protecting parents who leave newborns in safe places. In fact, State Representative Geanie Morrison, from Victoria, Texas, who was the sponsor of this legislation breaking the ice on this subject, is here with us in the gallery.

Many States, including my State of Delaware, are considering similar legislation designed to reduce the number of infant deaths.

For more than a decade, April has been recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month. During April, public and private agencies, community organizations, volunteers, and concerned citizens unite to highlight the problem of child abuse and to educate the public about how it can be prevented. Therefore, it is only fitting that the House of Representatives pass this resolution to focus the national attention on the problem of infant abandonment.

I urge the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded they should not make references to visitors in the gallery.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I am honored to be sponsoring this resolution with my colleague, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

Mr. Speaker, today's resolution, H. Res. 465, recognizes the necessity to keep statistics on the number of newborn babies abandoned in public places. This is a horrible and, unfortunately, an increasing situation. We need additional data so that we can better assess this growing problem so that we can strengthen our efforts to reduce it and prevent it entirely.

Too often, Mr. Speaker, we turn on the evening news or wake up to the morning papers to find out that yet another baby has been abandoned in an alley, on a park bench, or some other